

In the Specification:

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1 after the title:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

B 1 This application is a national phase application of International Application No. PCT/US99/26946, which was filed on November 16, 1999 and which published in English on May 25, 2001.--

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

B 2 1. (Amended) In a system for manufacturing a three-dimensional object by deposition of molten material drops on a substrate, an apparatus for producing said molten material drops comprising:

a crucible for holding a reservoir of molten material;

a conically-shaped orifice having a fixed outlet diameter disposed in the bottom of said crucible through which a jet of said molten material flows towards said substrate; and

an oscillating mechanical member for breaking said flow of molten material into said molten material drops, said member having a conically-shaped head for cooperating with said orifice and for continuously varying the effective size of said orifice, said conically-shaped head comprising a slanted radial portion and a tip portion extending through the orifice, the effective diameter d_{eff} of said orifice and said jet being defined by the equation $d_{eff} = [d_0^2 - (d_0 - \delta \tan \theta)^2]^{1/2}$, wherein d_0 is a variable representing